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**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No.: C-11

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On Nov. 7, 2002  
By Katie Zarzana

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
In re application of:

JAMES L. PACEK et al.

Application No.: 09/771,299

Filed: January 25, 2001

For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR  
ELECTROSURGICAL DISSECTION AND  
HARVESTING OF TISSUE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Examiner:

Art Unit: 3739

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**RECEIVED**

NOV 18 2002

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

Sir:

Before substantive examination, please amend the subject application as follows.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace page 11 with the following:

Figs. 7 and 8 are side views of the electrode support of Fig. 7;

Figs. 9A-12A are side views of the individual wafer layers of the electrode support;

Figs. 9B-12B are cross-sectional views of the individual wafer layers;

Fig. 13 is a side view of an individual wafer layer;

Figs. 14 and 15 illustrate an alternative multi-layer wafer design according to the present invention;

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of an electrosurgical probe having an elongated, blade-like active electrode;